

land ; and of ascertaining whether the latter be not an island or an archipelago of islands ; and much curious information may be expected from both. They will ascertain—what is as yet but very imperfectly known—the depth, the temperature, the saltness, and the specific gravity of the sea-water in those high latitudes—the velocity of the currents, the state of atmospherical electricity in the arctic regions, and its connexion, at which we have glanced, with the inclination, declination, and intensity of force of the magnetic needle, on which subject alone a collection of facts towards the upper part of Davis's Strait would be worth a voyage of discovery. It has indeed long been suspected, that one of the magnetic poles will be found in this neighbourhood, as in no part of the world have such extraordinary phenomena been observed, or such irregularities in the vibration and variation of the needle. Captain Muirhead before quoted, states that, by several good observations, he found the variation in latitude $75^{\circ} 30'$ no less than eight points ; that is to say, when the sun was on the meridian at midnight the needle pointed to the east. A comparison of the magnetic influence near the pole with what it has been observed to be on the equator, might lead to important results ; and the swinging of a pendulum as near to the pole as can be approached, to compare with the oscillations observed in the Shetland Islands and in the southern hemisphere, would be a great point gained for science.

END OF THE APPENDIX.

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